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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year from Capitol Hill. We hope you and your family are having a great time during the holidays. Here's a quick overview of things going in Washington, DC that are not related to the House's impeachment of the 45th US president and the Senate trial. Here's to a healthy and prosperous 2020.

Federal Employees' 2020 Pay Increase—Federal employees will get a 2.6% pay increase as well as an average increase of 0.5% in locality pay or, on average, a 3.1% increase. The locality pay will vary from area to area. For example, employees in the Washington, DC locality pay area will see an increase of 3.52%, while employees in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will see an increase of 3.24%.

2020 Appropriations—Congress passed, and the President signed the \$1.4 trillion 2020 fiscal year appropriations act, so the good news is that there will be no additional continuing resolutions in 2020. The Conservation Operations account (this includes the Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Plant Materials, and Snow Survey programs) was funded at \$829.6 million which is almost \$75 million more than the President's budget request (\$755 million). In addition, the 2020 Appropriations Act includes \$175 million for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program and \$10 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation program.

2021 Appropriations—Current law requires that the President submit a budget request to Congress between the first Monday in January and the first Monday in February. More on this in the next Notes from the Potomac.

The FED—As expected, the FED did not cut its Federal Funds interest rate in December after cutting interest rates three times earlier in 2019. The Federal Funds rate is the interest rate at which banks and other depository institutions lend money to each other so they can meet reserve requirements. Lowering the rate increases the supply of money. The FED's Federal Open Market Committee indicated when they met in early December that there is little chance of a cut or an increase in 2020. The Committee estimates that inflation for 2019 will be about 1.6%, and for 2020 it will inch up to 1.9%.

2018 Farm Bill—On November 12th, 2019, NRCS published the Interim Rule for the Conservation Stewardship Program in the Federal Register, with comments due by January 17th, 2020. And on December 17th, 2019, NRCS published the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Interim Rule with comments due on February 17th, 2020. If you are interested in reviewing and commenting on the rules, here's further information from the NRCS website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelpdrb1263599>



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Simmons

The New Year is a great time to say "thank you" to family and friends. ARSCE is grateful for the time and donations provided by members, area representatives, the board and friends of the organization. In the last six months, we have received \$726 in donations. ARSCE has some great ideas to use the money for members to stay connected and support training and experience for young conservationists. SWCS is developing a more vigorous intern program, and we hope to play a role in supporting the effort. Beginning with SWCS headquarters, and with increases in support, SWCS could be an umbrella organization for interns connected to SWCS, retirees, and conservation-minded organizations on a broader scale. The Board is also planning for the annual meeting at SWCS in Iowa, 2020. We hope it will be a kind of homecoming at SWCS Headquarters in Ankeny (we will shuttle over from the conference hotel). The visit will include hearing from historian intern, **Joe Otto**. Joe is archiving and organizing the Society's historical records and the Society's past accomplishments (*Historian* joe.otto@swcs.org). He will also share some seldom-seen photos from H.H. Bennett.

Mark the dates and join ARCSE at the 75th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Des Moines, IA, July 26-29, 2020.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Members

Maurice Jernstedt	Hubbard, Oregon
JR Flores*	Columbia, Missouri
Thomas Gust	Ames, Iowa
David Buland*	Crowley, Texas
Kathy Gotcher*	Muscle Shoals, Alabama

* was associate member

New Lifetime Members

Harold Blume	Salina, Kansas
Jon Werner	Eden, Utah
Daniel Guy	Saluda, South Carolina

Membership Dues

The 2020 Membership Dues Notice went out with the Nov/Dec ARCSE Newsletter. As of December 22, 2019, about 74% of members paying annual dues had submitted their 2020 dues. And, of members receiving a hard copy of the ARCS newsletter, about 67% had paid \$12 for that service in 2020. Many members contributed additional amounts to support the association. Your prompt payment of dues, fees, and generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES	
Member	\$18 per year
Affiliate	\$18 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$250
Age 65 thru 74	\$200
Age 75 or older	\$125
NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year.	
Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965 Moscow, ID 83843	

If you are receiving a hard copy and have not yet paid your 2020 dues or hard copy fee, here is some clarification on how to decipher the information on your label. **See payment example labels below.** 1. If the **first number to the right of your name on your mailing label** is "19", "19C", "19S" or lower, your dues are due! Numbers like "20C", "20", or higher indicate that your dues are paid for 2020. Numbers "999" indicate life members, and your dues are paid. 2. If the **second number to the right of your name on your mailing label** is "H19", an additional payment of \$12 is required to continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter. If it is "H20" or above, no additional payment is required to continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter.

*****ALL FOR ADC 123

0000123-11223

JOHN Q. PUBLIC, 999, H19

11 GRANITE MOUNTAIN

ANYWHERE, USA 01010-1010

*****ALL FOR ADC 456

0000456-44556

JAMES P. PUBLIC, 19, H19

11 GRANITE MOUNTAIN

ANYWHERE, USA 00101-1010

ARCSE Complimentary membership. When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year complimentary membership in ARCSE, if they have not previously been a member. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. This one-year complimentary membership includes receiving the bimonthly electronic newsletter. Membership applications and the ARCSE brochure may be printed at: <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

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The Auburn retiree group met each first Monday during 2019. One highlight was the September meeting on Labor Day on the back porch at **Earl and Julia Norton's** home. This was the best-attended meeting of 2019.



Alabama Retirees who met for breakfast on Labor Day in Auburn. Seated L-R: Earl Norton, Ambers Hanson, Ernie Todd, Ken Rogers, and John Meetze. Standing L-R: Mac Nelson, Torbit Henry, Ken Aycock, John Harris, George Martin, Ronnie Murphy, and Charles Bush.

Dave Kelly, an esteemed colleague and outstanding biologist, died during December and will be missed by our NRCS family.

Blake Parker, a long-time friend to several of our group and others over the country passed away in August in Randolph County, AL. Blake began his career in Alabama as a soil scientist, transferred around 1966 to Mississippi as Assistant State Soil Scientist and later moved to Florida to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to concentrate on hydric soil technology. He rapidly became recognized nationally as an expert on hydric soils and wetlands; and during this part of his career, with the USFWS, he assisted our National Soils Staff in identifying hydric soil attributes.



George Martin preparing a rhinoceros femur for plaster jacketing and collection from an early Miocene site while volunteering with the Florida Museum of Natural History.



George Martin pointing to the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) boundary signifying the end of the Cretaceous Period approximately 66 million years ago at Mussel Creek, Lowndes Co., AL.

George Martin, Soil Scientist, USDA-SCS/NRCS, 1972-2007, has made significant contributions to science since retirement as Assistant State Soil Scientist of Alabama. George has retained his Professional Soil Classifier credentials and still does occasional soils consulting work, but most of his free time since retirement is devoted to the field of paleontology. George, always interested in geology/paleontology, searches for, collects, and prepares fossils for donation to several museums. He maintains a small private collection for comparative purposes and for presentations at local schools, but any important finds are donated. George has developed and maintains relationships with curators of paleontology at museums in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Many of his finds reside in these respective State Museums and University collections.

ALASKA

Robert Jones, ARCSE Representative

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Winter solstice (December 21st, 2019) has passed, and we have survived the shortest daylight and longest night of the year. We now begin gaining a few additional minutes of light during each 24-hour period until the longest daylight period on June 21st, 2020. It seems everyone's attitude becomes more positive once we pass the winter solstice. Just the idea that we chase away a little more darkness each day seems to lift everyone's spirit.

As a member of the Alaska Farmland Trust board of directors I have participated in two significant conservation events in the past couple of months. First, I represented the Trust in accepting a perpetual easement donation of 16 acres of an original colonist homestead in the Palmer area. Secondly, I helped secure a perpetual easement on 80 acres of prime cropland in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

The Mat-Su Valley is the fastest growing area in the state and preserving prime cropland areas is a high priority because of its scarcity.

ARKANSAS

Ralph Mashburn, ARCSE Representative

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Nancy and Ralph Mashburn at their front door where about 10 of their family will gather in this country home for the Holidays.



NRCS retirees, Dick and Lori Babeu and Ralph and Nancy Mashburn, enjoying lunch together at a downtown Little Rock Hotel. Dick and Lori are traveling to Virginia to spend the holidays with family."

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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Greetings and Happy New Year from California!

It seems hard to believe we are already into the New Year, but that is just the way the time moves along these days, fast and furious! We hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas. A small group of us enjoyed our last monthly retiree luncheon of the year on December 4th.

Jim Chapman recently returned from a successful hunting trip to Wyoming. Jim, his son in-law, and fellow SCS retiree **Scott Frazer** were all successful getting an antelope. Jim shared the photo below with us. Congrats, Jim!

Our "World Traveler" **Helen Flach** spent a month in the Middle East, exploring Egypt, Jordan, and Israel with friends. Staying with friends in Cairo, she learned a lot about the culture and history. Having friends with connections helps, such as being invited to tour the construction site of the new Grand Egyptian Museum that will open in 2020. Also seeing the Pyramids, balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings, engineering marvels such as the Aswan Dam and the archaeological sites that were moved to save them – all fascinating. Adventures crossing the Palestinian Territories border on her own from Jordan to Israel were an exercise in having patience with bureaucracy, but altogether she felt very safe. Next up: Australia and New Zealand.



December 4th California Retiree Lunch Group: L-R: Bill Ward, Harold Honeyfield, Arturo Carvajal, Jack George, Ed Schmidt, Walt Sykes, and Jim Chapman.



Jim Chapman with his Antelope



Helen Flach spends a month in the Middle East!



Bill's Daughter and Granddaughter both "shine under the lights!" My wife **Dana** and I got to watch our daughter **Jennifer** and granddaughter **Anberlynn** perform in a recent theater gala performance for the theater group Jennifer has been part of for a number of years. What a treat that was! Anberlynn is definitely following in her Mom's footsteps.

Following are video recordings we captured from both of their performances! Anberlynn Reeves brings the house down, singing "A million Dreams": <https://youtu.be/7RI2oo5rjBQ>. Jennifer Reeves shines at the Hummingbird Theater Gala: <https://youtu.be/JxNiJdJiPrQ>.

That's about all this time around folks. Best Wishes in the New Year from California!



Jennifer Reeves



Anberlynn Reeves

The "China Show", CA SCS retirees at Bill and Dana Ward's house, 11/6/2019. Tom Wehri gave a talk about his recent trip to China.



Darwyn Briggs, Ron Hoppes, Sally Reed, Susie Briggs, Marilyn Hoppes, and Barbara Lowen.



Naomi, Marilyn, Walt, Harold, Bertha, Ed, Arturo, Jack, Brian, Marianne, and Tom.



Near Table, Luana Kiger, Ron Hoppes, Barbara Lowen, Sally



Sally Reed and Darwyn Briggs.

Reed, and Darwyn Briggs.



Tom Wehri and Luana Kiger.



Harold Honeyfield and Bertha Schmidt.



Tom Wehri and Walt Sykes.



Tom and the China Show Audience.

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

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Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin from Illinois joined Colorado retirees **Wendall Oaks, Phil Smith, Jason Restad, Steve Ekblad, Chuck Hart, and Stu Keil** at the Breakfast Club in Fort Collins in early November, swapping stories and experiences. **Jim and Bonnie** travel frequently to Colorado to visit their daughter and family in Elizabeth, south of Denver. The Fort Collins crew appreciated them dropping by, and Jim, lifetime ARCSE member, noted they had a great trip, and NRCS folks "are the same everywhere."



Colorado Monthly Breakfast Club (November): Wendall Oaks, Phil Smith, Bonnie McQuilkin, Jason Restad, Jim McQuilkin, Steve Ekblad, Chuck Hart, and Stu Keil.

Steve Park, retired Colorado State Soil Scientist, and the PAP (Pulmonary Aveolar Proteinosis) Foundation will host the 4th Annual Golfing-for-a-Cure Golf Tournament (scramble format), scheduled for June 27th, 2020 at the Racoon Creek Golf Course in Littleton, CO.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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On November 20th, Iowa's retirees held our annual Christmas Party at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Urbandale. We had 33 persons attend. The names of those who attended are shown in the captions under the pictures. Everyone enjoyed visiting and reconnecting with old friends. Drawings were held for door prizes consisting of three beautiful decorative wooden wall plaques made by **Jim Ayen**, a Machine Shed gift certificate, and a Hickory Farms cheese and crackers gift box. No one went home hungry after a good meal of Italian marinated chicken breast, old fashioned pot roast, and all the other good things the Machine Shed puts with it.



L-R: Dale Faulkner, Donald Borts, Eldon Weber, Jeannie Weber, Kay Breitbach, Dave Breitbach, Bob Dayton, Roger Link, and Herb Wilson.



Standing L-R: Helen Kopitzke, Dennis Peterson, Jody Christiansen, Margaret Dysart, and Rod Martin; **Seated:** Jack Sarasio and Maralee Sarasio.



Standing L-R: Jerry Stevens, Kathy Peterson, Brian Peterson, Kay Peterson, Don Peterson, and Chris Knudsen; **Seated L-R:** Marion Stevens, Connie Brent, and Lew Brent.



Standing L-R: Mark Jensen, Ann Jensen, Norm Koester, Jim Ayen, Doris Ayen, and Dick Hall. **Seated:** Charlotte Asell and Lyle Asell.

Jim and Betty Reel reported that they are spending the winter in Casa Grande, AZ. I suspect they are not the only ones enjoying the winter down south, but they are the only ones who have told me!

I had a nice visit with **John Chenoweth** the other day. He said that he is doing well after having a couple of stents placed in his heart last fall. John and **Carolyn** have ten grandkids and one great-grandkid. They enjoy living in western Arkansas. Whenever I talk to John, we always have an interesting visit about O&M and other technical issues concerning NRCS watershed dams.



Kim Smail holding a 15-inch trout caught by Rick Bednarek.



Marty Adkins directing a rehearsal of Mary Poppins

Rick Bednarek reports that since retiring, he and his wife, **Beth**, have traveled to Denver, CO, to visit their daughter. They also made a trip to Branson, MO, with their friends, **Kim and Judy Smail**. Kim is a District Conservationist in Illinois.

Marty Adkins directed a production of "Mary Poppins" for the Knoxville Community Theater. He said they had a very good run of five shows. The production was well attended and well received. The cast and crew made some great memories. He said one of the best parts was having young children dancing along in their seats. **Ann** and I were fortunate to get to attend one of the performances. We can vouch that it was a good one!

We have been saddened to learn of the passing of **Dean Pettit** and **Paul Sweeney**. Dean was a long-time soil conservationist in southeast Iowa. While Paul didn't retire from a position in Iowa, he was an Assistant State Conservationist in Iowa for several years. See the In-Memorial section for more details.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Salina got our Christmas snow a week early. We received six inches of snow the middle of December; however, there is no hope for a white Christmas as temperatures in the 50s and 60s are forecast for the Christmas week.

David Hays (former soil conservation technician in the Salina Field Office) celebrated his 80th birthday in October. **David** retired in 1993.

Gerald Karnes (former civil engineer technician in the Salina State Office) was a winner in the Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America juried art competition for people over the age of 65, with winners being featured in the "Art is Ageless" calendar. **Gerald** entered an ash wood carving, "Country Parson," which he finished over a period of three months. He finds carving is a relaxing hobby and is something that keeps him busy and active.



Gerald Karnes, artist



Gerald's winner: "Country Parson" carving.

Only one new retiree is being reported for this issue. Quite a number will be joining the retiree ranks at the end of December and into January and will be reported in the March/April newsletter. **Melvin L. Massey** retired November 30th, 2019, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Troy office of the Effingham Management Unit. **Melvin** retired with 30 years of service.

We are saddened to report four recent retiree deaths. **Harold L. Penner** passed away October 31st, 2019. He was a soil scientist on the Technical Staff in the Hutchinson Area Office and was headquartered at Wichita, KS. He retired in 1980 with 30 years of service. Preceding him in death in 2016 was his wife, **Doris**. **Deane W. Swanson** passed away on November 27th, 2019. He also was a soil scientist and was headquartered at Yates Center, KS. He mapped soil types in many of the southeast Kansas counties. His wife, **Dorothy**, preceded him in death in 2011. **Jerald "Jerry" E. Erickson** passed away December 6th, 2019. He retired in 2001 as a soil conservation technician in the Manhattan Field Office. His wife, **Patty**, survives. **Bonnie E. Packard** passed away December 9th, 2019. She retired in 1993 as a Procurement Clerk in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS. **James**, her husband of 67 years, survives.

Nila E. Haefner, spouse of **Ernest Haefner**, passed away November 7th, 2019. **Ernest** survives. He retired in 1995 as the District Conservationist in the Junction City Field Office. See the In-Memorial section for more details on these passings.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

Email: balnengr@tds.net

September: We had four regular members in attendance on September 10th. Attending were **Art Taylor, Chris Jones, Roger Ashe, and John Simon**.

Received a note from **Tom Smith**. He and **Connie** enjoyed a bus trip visiting various National Parks in the western states. Tom says hello to all. He will try to make it up here in the fall before serious snow falls.

Stephen Davis wrote that he will be moving south from Presque Isle to Augusta this fall. He hopes to be able to attend the Dysarts breakfasts more often. Hope you have a smooth move, Steve. I sent a copy of my heat pump article to Steve at his request.

Sally Butler sent a hello to all and asked several questions on heat pumps that she is considering installing, so I also sent her a copy of my heat pump article that should help answer some of her questions. One question not covered in my article is which brand is best. **Art Taylor** has the three Mitsubishi brands and I have two Fujitsu brands, but the best answer is weather the Efficiency Maine rebate covers the brand purchased and that the installer is certified!

A note from **Paul Hersey** indicated that he and **Candi Gilpatric** had breakfast in Farmington with **Kay Nickel** and **Vassar**. Kay and Vassar have a pickup and 5th wheel camper and have been traveling the country for quite a while. **John Malley** and his wife did the same for several years. Paul indicated that they (Kay and Vassar) are having a new home built in Fort Pierce, FL. Happy trails to Kay and Vassar as they settle down.

October: Tuesday October 9th turned out to be a beautiful day! Seven retirees showed up: **Art Taylor, Bob Lagassey, Karan and Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. All enjoyed sharing stuff going on in their lives.

Roger Ashe and his wife **Donna** could not attend as they were spending some vacation time on Hilton Head. The sandy beach, warm breeze, and good drinks were delightful. Hurry home Roger as the first snow is right around the corner. Roger sends his best to all. We all enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage for a couple of weeks!

November: Tuesday's November 12th breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Roger Ashe, and John Simon**. It was messy, cold, snowy, and just plain lousy weather, but we three had a great time and didn't stop talking until about 10:45 or so. Small groups tend to be like that, I guess. Lots of talk about heat pumps as we three all heat our houses with the systems.

Heard from **Bill Moulton** who said he got his 8-point buck at his farm. He had his fishing shack parked at the corner of one of his nearby fields as a hunting blind. You devil you. Bill's wife **Pat** had cataract surgery on her other eye and is in recovery and doing well.

December: On Tuesday December 10th we had a lively crowd with varying levels of kidding involved. Attending were: **Art Taylor, Karen and Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Chris Jones, Roger Ashe, Mary Thompson, and John Simon**. All of us appeared in good health and spirits, in spite of our general lack of youthfulness.

Mary Thompson is still heavy into blueberries and loving it. Her work involves lots of work outside (fresh air and sunshine) to keep her healthy! She has family in Brewer so the trip up here for breakfast gives her a chance to visit her grandkids.

Noreen and I spent the week of Thanksgiving with our son and his family in Montclair, NJ. The grand kids are approaching teenage hood. They are great kids, but that period is so full of dangers.

The last two years we had the pleasure of flying down non-stop from Bangor, ME to Newark, NJ. One hour and 21 minutes down and one hour and four minutes back! Can you believe it? Our son lives about 12 miles from Newark, so it is easy on him also to pick us up. Before the start of the Bangor to Newark flights we used to take the bus to Boston and Amtrak train to Newark. It took all day and wore us out! Cost was about the same also!

We spent the day after Thanksgiving at the Thomas Alva Edison National park in East Orange, NJ. What a fascinating place! Mechanical Engineer **Richard Hill** of UM fame would have loved the place! I recommend this national park to anyone. I believe it is in East Orange, NJ.

Chris and Janet Jones are planning to spend Christmas with their kids on the west coast. Happy trails to both of you. Enjoy the grandkids!

Art Taylor is thinking of working with one of the solar companies in Maine to let them set up a big array in his woodlot. I hope it turns out for the best! The new law in Maine is much more user-friendly than before.

Charlie Boothby mentioned about having our June luncheon in East Corinth at the Countryside Restaurant for a change. I will see what comments I receive about this. This restaurant is a real nice country-style restaurant and was a favorite of **Ed Snow** when he was the field engineer in central Maine out of Bangor! The countryside restaurant is on RT 15 from Bangor to Dover Foxcroft, about 20 miles out of Bangor. Definitely a worthwhile stop if you happen to be going by.

God bless you all and be writing to you next year! John Simon - up here in Maine!

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Recent retirees: **Clif Baumer**, (Environmental Engineer on the Water Resources staff in the state office); and **David Gruber**, (Mr. do-it-all) also in the state office.

The Columbia area retirees had their quarterly breakfast at Denny's in Columbia on November 13th. Those in attendance were: **Bob Ball, Hugh Curry, John and Carole McCarthy, Dennis Hoffman, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Jean Herman, Gail Sallee, Jerry Edwards, Franks Miller, Robert Hummel and Dave Rastorfer**. **Bob** reports that his main activity is staying warm, **Dennis** is busy biking, **Gail** is keeping her grandson busy with swim meets and **Robert** is busy with eight grandkids and keeping two houses in shape.

Craig King: Andrea and I are on the move constantly. Her work keeps her very busy, and I am driving a semi, hauling fuel (had to have something to do). I usually pick up ethanol in Macon or Laddonia and take it to East St. Louis to a terminal then haul some other type of fuel back. I am fortunate to have known the owner for several years, so I can work my own schedule. He had kids in sports, so he knows that schedule. As of this writing, we had an event every night and it will be that way until

Christmas. **Candra** is in 8th grade and plays middle school basketball now. Weston is in wrestling and that started December 9th. I drive the bus for that also. Matter of fact, I am sitting in the bus now in Carrollton, MO waiting for the match to start. They are both doing really well so very blessed for that. My brag for the day is: Weston for football made All-Conference, Sports Writers Northeast Missouri All District, Coaches All District, and found out today, Second Team All-State. He is a junior so will have another year. He has worked hard for it. Dad and Mom are beaming. We still raise some sheep (cut down some when the kids got involved more), so they will start lambing the first of January. Looking forward to the holidays to spend with Andrea's family and also our six grandkids. Hope all will have or did have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Dennis Shirk: Merry Christmas everyone! As I am writing this (December 13th) we are in the process of getting things set up and arranged for our family Christmas gathering tomorrow. We will be enjoying a variety of seafood and the opening of presents. Our grandkids range in age from 7 thru 25. I feel blessed to still have parents (Dad is 92 and Mom is 89) living in Greenfield, MO. May the Lord richly bless you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you down the trail.

Bill Pauls: Merry Christmas everyone. May the hopes and joys of the season be there for you all. The Pauls' Family wishes you a safe and blessed Christmas and a very happy new year. May God bless and keep you.

Jack Schneider: This year our whole family will be at our son **Keith's** home in Newark, DE for Christmas. Family now includes four grandsons. Linda and I took a trip to San Antonio, TX in November. Lots of history there with the Alamo and five other 1600s missions, plus the famous River Walk. Best wishes to all for Christmas and the upcoming new year.

Al Taylor: The Taylor bunch will do our usual things, talk, play games, eat, and then play some games. Grand kids are hard to beat. Arrivals start on the 25th and should all be here by the first. So, guess I better get the candy, cookies and other stuff going. Hope you'll have a nice white Christmas, BUT don't hope it for us. Merry Christmas to all. (Alton the class of '86)

Mike Blaine: Hello All. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Blaine Hill to you! Looks like a white Christmas is going to be out of the question here at Baring, MO even though we have snow on the ground now. Predictions for Christmas day are above 50 degrees! There is an old adage that says the date of the first snow in October will be the number of snows you get in the winter. We had a very light snowfall on the 29th of October. So far, I have logged seven different snows, although some were just flurries! We did get three inches on the 15th of December. That is the biggest one so far. I finished my Christmas shopping and now am looking forward to seeing grandkids open presents. That is always fun, just to watch them react to what they find wrapped up in all that paper. Hope you all have a joyous and happy time as we remember the reason for Christmas happening at all, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Have a great time with family and friends.

It is with great sadness to report that **Marvin Grandy** has passed away. Marvin was a District Conservationist in several locations in Missouri and retired about 40 years ago. See the In-Memoriam section for more details.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

Email: inca@3rivers.net

Montana Big Sky Report

Scott Hoag Report: Scott and Nancy traveled to Bainbridge Isle, WA this spring for their granddaughter's high school graduation and then back in July for a grand-niece wedding. In August they visited **Bob and Jan Remer** (NRCS) at their RV park in Pinedale, WY. They spent several days poking around the Wind River range. In September they travelled to Bismarck, ND to visit friends: **Ron and Karen Sando** (NRCS), **Cheryl Senechal** (NRCS) (Myron was in a VA facility North of Bismarck) and **Keith and Connie Winks** (USDA, APHIS). Myron passed shortly after. See the In-Memoriam section for more details.

The summer was cool and wet. About the time producers had hay down, it rained. Some never did get it baled. Grain crops suffered the same fate. Not a good year for agriculture. Now it's winter, and snow is in short supply for the ski areas. Nancy continues to write for the Christian market, and Scott consults part time for an engineering firm in UT and one in CA.

Dick Gooby Ranch Report: Merry Christmas. We thought last year was tough, but it was a picnic compared to this year. Winter started in October and by January it snowed and drifted so much we couldn't get out of the place. To feed the cows **Mary Ann** had to take a toboggan and pull the hay out to the cows every day. Several days the electricity was out and I couldn't watch my movies.

When we go out looking for feral cows, Mary Ann always has to take the steep ridges since my horse refuses to climb anything steep and rocky. It takes two people to be able to get the cows off the ridges. Mary Ann saved most of the money she took in at the farmers market and bought me a mountain horse. The cows that got way up on the ridge and stuck their tongue out at us because we couldn't get up to them won't do that anymore. My new horse, **Irene**, is a mountain-climbing machine.

Last week we headed out to the mountains to find a Christmas tree. When we decided to go, it was game day. I planned it so we would get up to the tree area during the football game at half time so I could help Mary Ann get the Christmas tree. But the spare tire had a different idea.

We were going up a steep hill and the tire slid out the back of the pickup. I had forgotten to close the tailgate. The tire rolled over the bank and bounced down the canyon. We just got cell service, and the football game was on, so I couldn't go hunt for the tire. Mary Ann said she would go get it and headed down the canyon. Luckily there was snow on the ground, and she was able to follow the tire track for nearly a half mile to find the tire. She worked at trying to drag the tire back up the hill. Every few feet she would slip, and the tire would bounce back down the hill. After about a dozen times of this, Mary Ann called me on her walkie-talkie and told me she was going to roll the tire down to the road at the bottom. For now I had to stay in the pickup on

the ridge because that was the only place I could get phone service and the game was in its last quarter. Luckily for me Mary Ann had brought a lot of good Christmas cookies and hot chocolate.

Mary Ann called me on her walkie-talkie when she got the tire down to the road. After about 25 minutes the game was over, so down I went. Mary Ann threw the spare tire in the back. She didn't even let the tail gate down. She got in the pickup and said she was dying of thirst and grabbed the thermos to get some hot chocolate. The only problem was that while watching the game I sipped up all the hot chocolate, so none was left. I took her cup and filled it with snow. Then I put it on top of the exhaust pipe, and the snow melted. Mary was happy to get something to drink. There was one Christmas cookie left. Mary Ann was happy that I didn't eat all the cookies. I looked up and right by the road there was the perfect Christmas tree, except the elk had used it to shine their antlers. But the tree had a lot of character, so Mary Ann agreed. I cut the tree and helped Mary Ann put it in the pickup. With so many limbs missing, it won't take Mary Ann nearly as long to trim the tree.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a super good New Year in 2020.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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The November meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Norm Helzer**. There were 14 members present (and five spouses): **Paul Bartlett (Betty), Jim Culver, Harold Klaege, JoAnne Thiele, Bob Engel, Steve Scheinost, Dana Snyder, Chris Chapman, Joe Calder (Flo), Thomas Reinsch (Sarah), Keith Sheets (Mary Alice), Norm Helzer Linda, Donna Dornbusch, and Gus Dornbusch**. The meeting was held at the Good Evans Breakfast & Lunch at 70 and A Streets.

The December meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Norm Helzer**. There were 17 members present: **Chris Chapman, Jim Culver, Bill Hance, Paul Bartlett, Keith Sheets, Jim Carr, Joe Calder, Gary Muckel, Gus Dornbusch, David Camper, Steve Scheinost, Bob Engel, Harold Klaege, Louie Buller, Norman Kempf, Norm Helzer, and Donna Dornbusch**.

Nancy Muckel recently had surgery for cancer which has recurred for the fourth time. **Lori Aquila** (Lori Dreezen as most of us remember) had a retirement party on December 10, 2019 in Room 397B at the Federal Building.

Paul Sweeney, retired State Conservationist, died on November 1st, 2019. He worked at several locations in NE including Benkleman, Alma, and Omaha. He also worked in Colorado, Iowa, North Dakota, and Washington. **Janis Lipins** died on December 17th, 2019 in Lincoln, NE. He worked in the SCS Cartography Center in Lincoln, NE. He was born on March 17, 1931 in Malupe, Latvia. See the In-Memoriam section for more details.

Dana Snyder and wife spent three weeks in Breverton, WA, with their daughter, then traveled to Eugene, OR, to see their son. They also traveled to Grand Junction, CO, to see a sister-in-law and family. **Harold Klaege** traveled to Iceland, which he reported was a very young volcanic island. Sheep and Icelandic horses are the main animals on the island; only Icelandic horses are allowed on the island to keep the breed pure. **Harold Klaege** received two tickets to the Nebraska volleyball game in Wisconsin from his doctor. His son flew down to meet him, and they went to the Nebraska volleyball games.

Tom Reinsch discovered the ghost town of Camden in Seward County. There is only a cemetery now in Camden. **Norm Kempf** went to the Black Hills for the 42nd time with his deer-hunting crew. He then traveled to Timber Lake, SD to see his sister-in-law, and then had lunch with a high school classmate in Mobridge, SD. He then stayed overnight with his daughter in Faulkton, SD. After arriving home, he went hunting in his newly constructed deer blind and got a deer the first day.

Keith Sheets and his wife will be traveling south to Texas after the holidays and will be there until April. **Norm Helzer** saw **Tony and Elaine Vrana**, and they are doing pretty good, having retired in Seward. **Louie Buller** provided treats to a coffee group of former NRCS/SCS employees, and they were very good.

Following is the slate of officers for the coming year: Chairperson, **Jim Culver**; Vice-chairperson, **Tom Reinsch**; Secretary, **Donna Dornbusch**; Treasurer, **JoAnne Thiele**.

Our January 15th meeting will be at Stauffers at 8am. The minutes were recorded by **Donna Dornbusch**, Secretary.



Left side: Joe Calder, Flo Calder, Chris Chapman, Dana Snyder, Norm Helzer (our Chair, standing, getting the meeting started). **Right side:** Steve Scheinost, Bob Engel, and Joan Thiele.



Thomas and Sarah Reinach, Mary Alice and Keith Sheets.



Norm and Linda Helzer, and Gus and Donna Dornbusch.



Paul and Betty Bartlett



Harold Klaege, Bill Hance, Paul Bartlett, Keith Sheets, Jim Carr, Joe Calder and Gary Muckel.



Gus Dornbusch, right, wishing Norman Kempf a Happy Holiday Season.

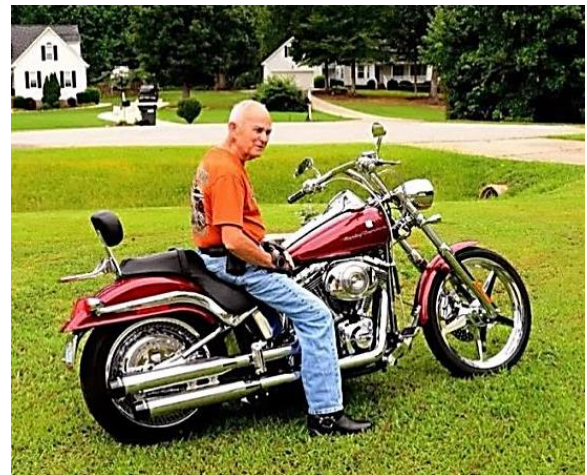
NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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Charlie Godley has been having severe balance issues since the latter part of 2016. "This to say I sold my Harley in February 2017 just before moving to Winston-Salem.

I have had osteoporosis for several years. In September 2019 I was admitted to the hospital for fractures on my lower vertebrae. Several weeks of rehabilitation clinic and home rehab. No falls or injured spine, just gave way. So motorcycle riding is over."



Charlie Godley on his Harley.

OHIO

Jon Gerken, ARCSE Representative

Email: jgerken47@gmail.com

In November **Bob Parkinson** hosted Ohio State Emeritus Professor **Jerry Bigham** and me for a week at the New Jersey shore. The striped bass run was approaching, so most of our time was spent fishing from shore. We travelled to several different locations to try our luck there. Although the fishing was still slow, we did have some success.

During the week we mixed in some sightseeing to locations like Barnegat Light House State Park, although for a Midwesterner like me, most of the travelling around that we did was a great sightseeing experience.



The fishing gang: Dr. Jerry Bigham, Jon Gerken, and Bob Parkinson.



Wide open spaces with little competition while shore fishing.



A striped bass caught shore fishing. No, it wasn't a keeper.



Barnegat Lighthouse State Park.

We spent one day on a charter boat, the Miss Barnegat Light, fishing for striped bass (mostly) and bluefish. Among the group on the boat, around 30 in all, we did fairly well on striped bass, but the group caught many more sharks and other less desirable species than we did stripers. The main thing was, it was great weather, we had a great time, and we all came home with some fish.



The Miss Barnegat Light, our charter boat for a day of striper fishing.



Our view for the Ohio State vs. Rutgers football game.

While we were in the area, we also took the opportunity to take in the Ohio State vs. Rutgers football game. It was a bit chilly but we had great seats, and we got the outcome we wanted to see on the field. This was only the third Big Ten football stadium I have had a chance to visit, Ohio State and Purdue being the first two, so it was a real treat for me.

Dean Hire, Athens, OH, passed away on December 8th. See the In-Memoriam section for more details.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK on October 25th, 2019. Twenty six people were in attendance: **Ken Awtrey, Mike and Mary Barrick, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Chuck Grimes, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar and guest Bobbie**

Steenbergen, Tim and Margaret Miller, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Phil Perryman, John and Joy Pewthers, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim and Terry Smith, and Ed Stinchcomb.

President **Harry Fritzler** called the meeting to order. **Harry** asked if anyone knew of retirees needing prayers. **Nick Lambeth** is still experiencing problems with his amputated leg and infection in his other foot. **Kenneth Blan** and wife are having health issues. And **Jim McCampbell** continues to struggle with health issues. **Ken Awtry** provided a blessing, and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

There were 18 retirees in attendance. **Harry** asked for a show of hands of retirees who have been retired: <5 yrs – 2; 5-10 yrs – 4; 10-15 yrs – 5; 15-20 yrs – 2; 20-25 yrs – 1; 25-30 yrs – 2; and >30 yrs – 0. One former employee was in attendance who did not retire from SCS/NRCS, **Chuck Grimes**; however, he is a faithful attendee. Several retirees had to be reminded by others just how many years they had been retired, to the delight of all!



Chuck Grimes.



Terry and Jim Smith.

Sandra Hough read comments from retirees who were unable to attend. **Carolyn Webb** replied that her 80th birthday was this weekend and lots of family coming to visit. **Geri Cutler** said to tell everyone hello, and she loves looking at the website and reading the minutes, newsletters, and looking at pictures. **Don Bartolina** was just too busy (he was on a cruise). **Steve Chessmore** was helping his Mom with health issues.

Sandra then read a list of recent retirees: **Larry Caldwell**, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, 6/28/19; and **Terrell Howard**, DC, Arnett FO, 9/27/19, 32 yrs. service.

Sandra also read a list of retiree deaths: **Everett Cole**, 85, Soil Scientist at State Office, Stillwater, 4/29/19, 35 yrs. service; **Phil Glenn**, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley, 7/16/19, retired 2017, served as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Shawnee FO since 2013; and **Jim Beaty**, 87, Soil Conservation Technician, Sayre FO, 8/31/19, 36 yrs. service. **Chris Shepherd** offered a prayer in their memory. See the In-Memoriam section of the arcse.org website for details.



Betty Gilbert and George Moreland.



Wayne Fjeseth.

Harry Fritzler announced that **Kevin Norton**, State Conservationist in Louisiana, was named NRCS Associate Chief on August 15th, 2019. **Kevin** previously served in various locations across Oklahoma. His last position in Oklahoma was Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Congratulations **Kevin**!

Wayne Fjeseth serves on the board of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) and provided those in attendance with a copy of a status report on the Oral History Project. The purpose of this group is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's rich conservation history with Oklahomans.

As of October 18th, 2019, the OSU Library has posted 21 of the oral histories on their website under the Oklahoma Conservation Heritage Oral History Collection. The oral histories can be accessed at: <http://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital>. He also made available 2019 Membership forms for those interested in becoming members or renewing their membership. The SCS/NRCS Retiree group became members in October 2018. **Wayne** also announced that his tenure on the board is up and that

Duane Crider had agreed to fill his position on the board. Wayne also volunteers with the Pioneer Library System. **Duane Crider** and his wife **Jan** recently spent 23 days touring Europe. He mentioned several highlights including Paris, Switzerland, Germany, Italy (including Rome where they saw the Pope), and Normandy American Cemetery where he saw the grave of an Oklahoman. At one point during their trip they became separated: **Duane** exited the train and before **Jan** could disembark, the doors closed, and the train left the station! After lots of efforts by the tour group, they were reunited!

Dan and Sharon Runnels live on their Taste of Heaven Farm outside Kellyville, OK where they raise Registered Dexter Cattle and chickens. They have been following County and State Fairs lately to see some of their Dexter offspring being shown by area FFA students. They also travel the US and keep up with their granddaughter, **Catherine**. **Dan** and **Sharon** celebrated 45 years together in August.

Many of you will remember the old **Archie Bunker** statement from "All in the Family" -- "I'm coming Elizabeth"! Well here is a real *I'm Coming Elizabeth* moment. **Ed Stinchcomb** is now married for the first time in his life! (He retired last year). Ed has moved back to his hometown of Hollis, OK to be with his new wife (**Lillie**). Ed said that in saying one "I do," his family grew by dozens. Congratulations, Ed! It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.



Ed Stinchcomb.



Margaret and Tim Miller.

Sandra and Terry Hough recently spent three weeks in Piedmont, MO at Beaver Springs Campground helping their youngest daughter and husband who own the campground.

Ken Awtrey joined us again from deep down in Texas. He continues to consult with his local RC&D Office two days a week, plays golf up to three days a week, and works with his local church.

Cattle ranching, church activities, and taking care of grandchildren keep **Tim** and **Margaret Miller** busy. Oh, by the way, they also just completed a new home.

It was mentioned that an article appeared in the 2019 issue of Impact published by the Oklahoma State University College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology. The article, entitled "Fixing Fences," is about retiree **Ron Goedecke's** invention of the Fence Bullet as a means of using steel pipe without welding. **Ron** received the Regent Business Partnership Award from OSU for 2019. Doesn't sound like **Ron** is "quite" retired.

Mike Barrick volunteers with the American Red Cross and still serves as the State Coordinator with the Baptist Disaster Relief Chainsaw Ministry. He also serves with the local food bank and his church in Locust Grove, OK.



Mary and Mike Barrick.

On Wednesday, Billy Jones, retired Area Engineer in Goldsboro, had his other leg amputated due to an infection in his foot. According to **Val**, his wife, Billy will be going to rehab once the doctors take care of some other complications. I'm sure Billy would appreciate your prayers and a note of encouragement. Billy's address is 198 Hoyle Jones Road, Hertford, NC 27944-8062. His email address is bjones57@gmail.com.

Harry Fritzler asked the group to consider ideas for future topics at the meetings and share those with him, **Randy Freeland** or **Sandra Hough**.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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After a two-year hiatus, engineers from various positions, both still employed and retired, once again met for a "staff meeting" on a rainy December 19th at the Broadway Grill and Brewery in northeast Portland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss alternative solutions to the myriad of the world's problems. Attending were **Quan Quan**, **Dan Moore**, **Pat Willey**, **Harbans Lal**, **Leland Saele**, **Gary Conaway**, **Meghan Walter**, **Paul Pedone**, **Joe Sahlfeld**, and **Don Stettler**.

Maury Jernstedt won his third consecutive first place award in Molalla's July Fourth Freedom 5K race for over-eighty-years-of-age participants. Maury is 88 years old, so it was a significant achievement. Last summer Maury and **Lee Hardy** hosted a blowtorch and antique car extravaganza in Hubbard.

Lee Hardy received the Oregon State University Diamond Pioneer Award last October. It is an award for people who have lifetime contributions to agriculture, natural resources, and the people of Oregon and/or Oregon State University. It recognizes Lee's work in the design and permitting of irrigation, livestock waste management and erosion control projects in the state. Further, Lee has served as a Marion County SWCD Associate Board Member for many years.

The winter quarter lunch is scheduled for January 22nd at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha.



Lee Hardy received the Oregon State University Diamond Pioneer Award.



Leland Saele and **Dan Moore**.



Harbans Lal, **Dan Moore**, **Meghan Walter**, and **Paul Pedone**.



Gary Conaway, **Joe Sahlfeld**, and **Pat Willey**.



Oregon State University Diamond Pioneer Awardees, Oct. 2019.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ellis D. Morrow and Grady Adkins, ARCSE Representatives

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South Carolina Retirees met in the Myrtle Beach area on October 15th, 2019 for a "Lunch & Learn Meeting." Following lunch, **Susan Libes**, a Professor of Marine Science at Coastal Carolina University, discussed how teams of volunteers are performing water quality monitoring of watersheds in Horry and Georgetown Counties, SC. These watersheds are critical to the ecosystem since they drain directly through marshes and rivers to the Atlantic Ocean.



Standing L-R: Ethel Comer, George Comer, Bunny Anderson, Ellis Morrow, Al McNeill, Niles Glasgow, Bethel Durant, Grady Adkins, Dan Guy, and Susan Libes (Speaker). Seated L-R: Linda McNeill, Ann Christie, Bill Melven, Marcia Adkins, and Carolyn Glasgow

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

The North Texas group had their annual Christmas meeting on Friday, December 20th and everyone had a good time. **Jere Rickman** acted as Santa Clause again this year and provided gifts to everyone using the name-drawing concept. They travel a lot during the year, and she picks up interesting gifts as they visit countries throughout the world. Their goal is to visit 100 countries before they slow down or stop traveling. No sign of a slowdown yet.

We continue to have problems getting new retirees to join us, and we are becoming more and more concerned about that problem. **Bill Kuenstler**, who during the past year or so moved to Florida, has assumed my long-time duty as V.P. for the south states. We are proud of him for assuming those responsibilities. He is working hard to get a state rep. for Florida, and I think **Bob Halstead** may assume the task. The new President, **Cheryl Simmons**, is doing an excellent job along with the new officers who came on board this past year.

We learned of the sudden death of Dave Moffitt of Ft. Worth, TX, on Christmas Day. See the In-Memoriam section for details.

VIRGINIA

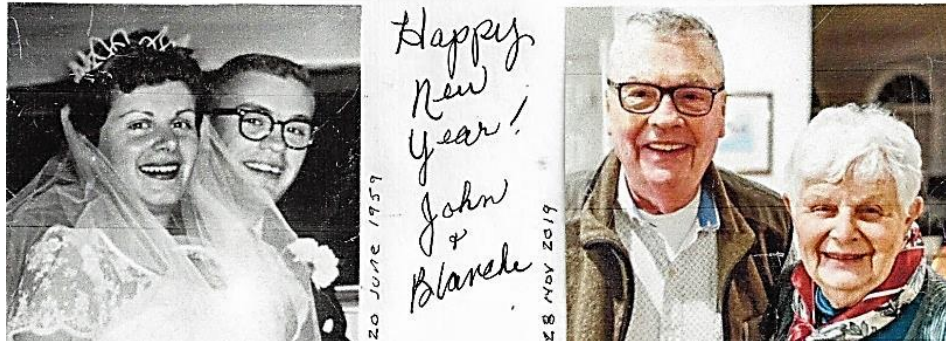
Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Ken Carter needs to retire from his representative duties, and we are looking for a replacement. Please contact Melvin Womack if you are interested or have questions: (804) 803-8940, mwpocket2@comcast.net.

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Editor's Note: The Washington National Capital Area needs a Representative. John Peterson served this role for many years and has retired. Please contact Melvin Womack, East Regional Vice President if you are interested in carrying the torch (804) 803-8940, mwpocket2@comcast.net



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from **John and Blanche Peterson**! Greetings from the Old Dominion. Our family is doing well. **Pat** in NC had to evacuate during Hurricane Dorian but had no damage. **Erin** is in VA with us between trips back to CO and other states. She has relocated to VA from CO. She is handy for visiting and taking her nieces and nephews (Baileys and Petersons) to activities in Leesburg and Manassas.

Dubes are in Maine, and their children are as active as the others. **Megan** is starting to drive. Time really flies! This was a year we made use of our time-shares; Virginia Beach, VA in January, Sedona, AZ in February with 18 inches of snow and Blanche's cousin who drove up from Phoenix. Then we had a week in Tucson where John had his LICA Meeting, and we visited with some SCS and Blanche's HS friends. We drove back to Hilton Head Island, SC with a stop to visit the Vicksburg, MS National Military Park. While at Hilton Head we took a boat trip to Daufusie Island. Daufusie Island is only thirty minutes from Hilton Head by boat, an hour from Savannah, but it feels like you're going back 100 years in time. Sandy roads reveal an island that is rich in history with one of the most beautiful and fragile beaches on the East Coast.



US Capitol in a snow storm past.

Home again for Nationals games, grandchildren's baseball, soccer, and T-ball games. Is there anything better than T-ball to put a smile on your face? Dubes were here for their annual April visit and time to enjoy all the grandchildren together.

After the SCS retiree's reunion in Franklin, TN we spent a week in Crossville, TN. We visited the Andrew Jackson's Hermitage and spent an evening with John's cousin **Ruth Pavelchik**. We spent the July 4th week back at Hilton Head.

August is our week at Massanutten in VA's Shenandoah Valley. There is a Barn Quilt Trail in the area, and we spent a morning tracking some of them down. The Bailey and Peterson families came out and we watched grandchildren at a painting class, zipline and walk a ropes course. Evenings we played "grandmothers' rules" Mexican Train. From there we drove to Cable, WI for a week in the woods at Telemark Resort near Lake Superior. **Jerry and Kathy Sorensen** joined us, and we played Mexican Train with the real rules and ate lots of walleye pike. Telemark is very rustic with lakes and forest.

To celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary we flew to Hawaii. The first week was on Hawaii, the Big Island, and we had an excellent day tour to Hilo and around the island. We visited a Kona coffee farm, Punalu'u Black Sand Beach, Kilauea volcano, had lunch at an orchid nursery and saw many waterfalls. Our Royal Kana Resort was on the ocean's lava rocks, so we had crashing waves and beautiful sunrises and sunsets and water views. The second week we were at Maui's Kaanapali Beach Club Resort again with water views. We took another day trip to Hana on curvy roads, saw more waterfalls, Haleakala Volcano, and drove around the island. The road home was full of potholes and roaming wild goats.

We were home for the exciting finish to our Nationals' season and World Series Championship. Being in the stadium for the "baby shark" clap is a special memory. This was the first year we did not buy all the playoff tickets. Maybe that is why they won. With their poor start, our annual trip to Maine at World Series time, and no close-by parking for partial season ticket holders, we opted out. We were there when they clinched, and John went to the wild-card game vs. Milwaukee.

October is our two weeks in Maine. We saw one of **William's** soccer games but missed **Lily's** volleyball. Lily earned her Greeley HS varsity volleyball letter as a freshman. Erin spent a week with us and Dube's came up for a weekend and the Samoset Sunday brunch. We visited the Camden Library, Rockport Opera House, lighthouses, L.L. Bean in Freeport. John had his lobsters, and we had an evening with Dubes in Cumberland. We do enjoy our visits to Maine and Dubes.

Thanksgiving was hosted by Petersons. We had grandchildren sleeping over afterward, giving Blanche a head start on Christmas decorating. We have another conservation meeting in Norfolk, and Christmas will be here again. There has been some progress on downsizing in the house. John still goes to the Ravens' football games. We gave up our DC United soccer tickets because of bad parking, and still go to George Mason's basketball games. John will step down from LICA in July 2020 but will stay with his conservation district until his term ends in 2020. We hope 2019 was a good year for you.

Please note that John Peterson's email address is now jwpeterson083@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: The Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) has become Administratively Inactive as of December 5th, 2019 (<https://acwi.gov/>). ACWI subcommittees and associated workgroups are not authorized to continue operations under the Federal Advisory Committee Act until further notice. See the web site for details. The ACWI has represented for many years the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on Federal water-information programs and their effectiveness in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. The ACWI has been the umbrella organization for workgroups and subcommittees on climate change, water quality monitoring, ground water, hydrologic modeling, sedimentation, and water data collection and analysis.

Helen Fox Moody passed away on Dec. 8. She was a hydrologist and raised zebra finches. See the In-Memoriam section for more details.

Editor's Note: the following article and recent court ruling pertain to aging dams, dam safety, and government "taking," for those interested. It is about two large dams built west of Houston, TX in the 1940s, which were operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers during Hurricane Harvey, and damaged thousands of homes due to retained floodwater. Shared from the 12/18/2019 Houston Chronicle eEdition.

<http://digital.olivesoftware.com/olive/ODN/HoustonChronicle/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=HHC%2F2019%2F12%2F18&entity=Ar00101&sk=3E1D8D3A&mode=text>

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

Email: kenkaul@msn.com

Attendees at the monthly luncheon at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet in November and December were **Larry Edmonds, Chet Jans, Ken Kaul, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Paul Taylor and Carl Vennes**. Ken and Tina enjoyed their tour of the Panama Canal and the Caribbean Sea islands.

Larry Edmonds has been faithful to his cardiac rehab diet and has lost 100 pounds. **Stefan Fechter** emailed that they are enjoying life in Arizona. **Carl Vennes** successfully harvested a 5 X 5 point bull elk.



Ken and Tina Kaul at the Panama Canal.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Diana Doerr moved to Triadelphia and has opened a new restaurant with her daughters, called the Hillbilly Snack Shack.

Bill Harris, Jim Michael and Sam Sheets attended the annual meeting of the WV Conservation District Supervisors Association at Flatwoods on October 21-22 as elected Conservation District Supervisors. Jim is chair of the Water Resources committee and pushing hard for PL-566 funds and watershed protection and improvement projects.

Dee Weston met **Becky Mullenax, Debbie Chase and Shelly Purkey** at a local restaurant in Morgantown for lunch in mid-December. Dee said, "We started that December get together over 30 years ago when we first met, and it's always a wonderful time together with great memories!"

Larry Sturm has "retired again! After 10 years of running the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, I turned 70 and left that organization on wonderful terms. I have decided to make my third career that of an unpaid handyman doing jobs for my family and the silver haired ladies of my church. The work to be done is endless, but I am thankful to be healthy enough to do it."

Skip Bell is "loving retirement and my new life in Erie, although I do miss my WV friends. I am close to my daughter and grandson and get to see them often. I am remarried, to a woman I met in Erie. Despite the wicked winter weather, I like Erie very much. There are lots of outdoor recreation opportunities, and Erie has an active arts community. It's a city on the rise with lots to do and a very reasonable cost of living."

Pat Bowen and his wife **Elaine** have been busy this year. Ever since Elaine retired from the WVU Extension Service, they have been busy helping to renovate their son's house. They hope to have it done before their second grandson arrives in February.



NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. See IN-MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who have left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.

Donald L. Stettler
Lawrence A. Tornes
Joseph H. Williams

Beaverton, OR
Sunbury, OH
Cary, NC

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist

Frederick E. Bubb

Senior Conservationist **Frederick (Fred) E. Bubb**, was born January 12, 1933, in Williamsport, PA. Williamsport is the county seat of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. It is about 85 miles north of Harrisburg and is situated on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Fred grew up in Williamsport and attended local schools graduating from Williamsport High School in 1950.

When he was 12 years old, he worked on a farm that produced certified seed. His job was "mainly hoeing weeds," as he recounts. He worked there three summers. During high school he had three jobs: two involved transplanting for florists/growers, and the third involved working Saturdays caring for a poultry and truck crop farm while the family was at market. He entered the Pennsylvania State University in 1950 and earned an Associate degree in Farm Mechanics in 1952. Before he could continue, he had to withdraw due to illness. For two years he worked as manager of a dairy farm that was part of a children's home. He returned to Penn State and completed his college education. Between his junior and senior years he was hired by SCS as a Student Trainee.

Upon graduation in 1956 with a degree in General Agriculture, he was assigned to the Center County SCS office in Bellefonte, PA as a GS-5 Soil Scientist. In August of that year Fred married **Carol Eakin** (who he had met while managing dairy farm mentioned above) and who also graduated from Penn State in 1956. In 1958 Fred was promoted to GS-7 Work Unit Conservationist at Lewisburg, PA. In 1962 he was promoted again to GS-9 Work Unit Conservationist at Allentown, PA. In 1967 he became GS-11 Work Unit Conservationist at Dallas, PA. In 1973, Fred was assigned to be GS-12 Coordinator for the Endless Mountains RC&D at Towanda, PA. Fred served there for four years until he was made GS-12 Public Affairs Specialist at the SCS State Office, Harrisburg, PA, in 1977. He served in that position until 1989 when he was promoted to GS-13/14 Regional Information Officer located at the Northeast National Technical Center at Chester, PA. Fred served there until 1994 when he retired from Federal Service.

Fred has related a memorable experience that happened in 1977. He and **Walt Jeske** (from NHQ) had spent much of the spring and summer that year creating a three-acre SCS exhibit for the National Boy Scout Jamboree (Moraine State Park near Butler, PA). He recounts that "...as we were tearing down the exhibit, I was told to call the [State Office] and was ordered to proceed to the Johnstown Flood recovery. There I picked up an assignment that followed me around: the liaison between SCS and FEMA. I never got to see my family that summer, as the work schedule was seven days a week from 6am to 9pm..." Fred received numerous awards during his career, but the USDA Superior Service Award he received in May 1982 from Secretary of Agriculture John Block is his most special.

Following retirement, Fred was a bank courier for a five-county area for several years. He then worked for a roadside market as their primary tractor driver. Just after retirement, Fred began making mission trips to Bosnia as the war there was winding down. Over the following 15 years he made 17 trips of two to six weeks in length. It was during one of his first trips that he was approached by a small group of teenagers who asked him to be their "grandfather." Due to the war there was a shortage of men. These relationships have lasted to this day through letters and email. Fred writes "Now they are married with children, but I am still their grandfather."

Sadly, Fred's wife of 62 years, **Carol Eakin Bubb**, passed away November 18, 2018. Fred and Carol have three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Both Fred and Carol were and continue to be involved in the life and witness of their church.

OBITUARY INFORMATION**Paul Benedict, Membership Chair**

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. Please send death notices and obituary information directly to Paul at soilwarden@verizon.net. Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname **Year** *In-Memoriam* (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)

- Bieber** 2019 **Gene L. Bieber** (83) of West Lafayette, Ohio passed away November 11, 2019. Gene was born August 15, 1936 in Lafayette, Indiana and was the son of **Fred M.** and **Lena (Boyce) Bieber**. He was a graduate of Purdue University, Kansas State University, and Auburn University. On June 21, 1969 he married **Shea Dawn Cedarquist**. From 1960-1963 he served in the United States Air Force as a meteorologist at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. He was an Agriculture Professor at Mississippi State University from 1967-1972, an Agriculture Professor at SE Missouri State from 1972-1974, Extension Agent at Daviess County, Indiana from 1974-1983 and the Area Agronomist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1984 until he retired in 2002. Gene was an active member of the West Lafayette United Methodist Church, West Lafayette, Ohio, past president of the Kiwanis Club in Washington, Indiana, and singer/guitarist in the Jim Patterson Band. He owned and operated Bieber's Backyard Produce. In addition to his wife Shea, Gene is survived by three children: **Cara Bieber (Greg) Noyes** of Newark, Ohio; **Zane Christopher Bieber** of West Lafayette; and **Lana Bieber (Opha, Jr.) Lawson** of Coshocton, Ohio; and three grandchildren.
- Campbell** 2019 **Toy Noah Campbell, Jr.** (87) of Jefferson, North Carolina passed away December 7, 2019 at St. Charles Hospital in Bend, Oregon. Toy was born in Catawba County North Carolina on January 4, 1931 to the late **Toy Noah** and **Blanche Plumley Campbell**. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict. Toy was a long time District Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Jefferson, North Carolina where he retired. Toy was a Hospice Volunteer for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Hallie Marie Thompson Campbell**. Toy is survived by a son, **Jeffrey Toy Campbell (Penny)** of Bend, Oregon; two daughters, **Sheri Lynn Campbell (Bill Baer)**, of Salt Lake City, Utah and **Donna Campbell Michaels**, of Coco, Florida; and two grandchildren.
- Erickson** 2019 **Jerald "Jerry" Erickson** (83) of Leonardville, Kansas passed away December 6, 2019 at the Ascension Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, Kansas. He retired in 2001 as a soil conservation technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the Manhattan Field Office. His wife, **Patty Erickson**, survives.
- Goode** 2019 **Rodney "Rod" Keith Goode** (70) of Pell City, Alabama passed away October 14, 2019. He was born on July 2, 1949 in Glencoe Alabama. He married his high school sweetheart, **Retha Marker Goode**, and was married for 49 years. He graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1972 and Master of Science degree in 1974. He loved his Alma Mater and was an enormous Auburn football fan. He loved his job with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and retired after 42 years of service at the end of 2016. He was District Conservationist for Jefferson and St. Clair Counties in Alabama for many years. Rod was actively involved in many conservation and civic organizations. He won the Jerry L. Johnson award for excellence in public service. Rod was a member of First Baptist Church of Pell City for 44 years. He led a life of service and volunteered to help his church and community in many capacities over the years. Survivors include his wife Retha, daughter **Amy (Chris) Bain**, and two grandchildren. A Celebration of Life Memorial service was held at First Baptist Church of Pell City on October 18, 2019.
- Grandy** 2019 **Marvin W. Grandy** (93) of New London, Missouri, passed away November 6, 2019, at Clarence Care Center in Clarence, Missouri. Marvin was born March 1, 1926, in Blair, Nebraska to **Clarence W. Grandy** and **Jewell W. Weissen Grandy**. Marvin served his country proudly in the Army Air Corp during World War II as a tail gunner on a B-17. He was a graduate from Texas Tech College with a degree in 1949. He married **Kathryn "Kathy" Luna** on April 13, 1963, in Goodman, Missouri. Marvin worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservationist. He was the district conservationist in New London, Missouri when he retired in the 1970s. After he retired, he worked part time for the YMCA and for the United States Post Office in New London. He was also a cattle farmer. He is survived by his wife Kathy; daughters **Linda K. Epperson** of New London, Missouri, and **Patricia O'Boyle (Bill)** of Harmony, Florida; and four grandchildren.
- Haefner** 2019 **Nila Elaine Haefner** (81) of Wheaton, Kansas passed away November 7, 2019. Nila was the spouse of **Ernest Haefner**, who survives. Ernest retired in 1995 as the District Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service Junction City Field Office.
- Hartwig** 2019 **Edgar Carl "Easy" Hartwig** (94) of Auburn, Nebraska passed away November 12, 2019. He was the son of **Carl** and **Martha (Schenkel) Hartwig**, born July 6, 1925 in Firth, Nebraska. After high school, "Easy," as he was known, worked as a welder at the Martin Bomber Plant from 1942 to 1943. On December 28, 1944, Easy enlisted in the United States Army. While in the Army, Easy served as a Paratrooper during World War II. He was honorably discharged on May 17, 1946. On December 31, 1946 Easy was united in marriage to **Ileene Smith**. Easy worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Nemaha County as a soil conservation technician from 1962 until he retired in 1991. Easy was involved with several civic and service organizations in Auburn. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Ileene. He is survived by his son **Chet (Judy) Hartwig** of Lincoln; sons-in-law **Mark Bresley**, **David Bals**, **Mitch Mehuron**; daughter-in-law **Margy Hartwig**; 7 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren. According to his wishes, Easy's body was donated to the Nebraska Anatomical Board.
- Hire** 2019 **Dean (Keet) Frederick Hire** (78) of Athens, Ohio passed away on December 8, 2019. Dean was born February 26, 1941 to **Milton** and **Lucille (Kuns) Hire** in Sandusky, Ohio. After high school he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served four years. He attended Ohio State University earning his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering in 1969. His first job with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service was in Coshocton, Ohio, and he transferred to Athens in 1972 where he worked until he retired in 1994. He was involved in a multitude of reclamation projects all over southeastern Ohio and became area engineer. He was preceded in death by his former wife, **Barbara Ann (Sass) Hire**. He is survived by his four children, **Tanya Wandling (Dave)** of New Marshfield, Ohio; **Tammy Hawk (Matthew)** of Chauncey, Ohio; **Michael Hire (Nicole)** of McArthur, Ohio; and **Tara (Lord) Kole** of Monhegan Island, Maine; and

seven grandchildren.

- Jones** 2019 Member and Senior Conservationist **Billy Hobbs Jones** (88) of Hertford, North Carolina passed away December 27, 2019 at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center. He was born in Perquimans County, North Carolina on July 28, 1931, the son of the late **Thomas Hoyle Jones** and **Sally Mae Hobbs Jones**. Billy served in the US Navy for four years during the Korean Conflict. He then returned to North Carolina and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from North Carolina State University. Billy was an engineer with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina and Goldsboro, North Carolina for thirty-four years and was a registered professional engineer. He was a member of Hertford Baptist Church. He was also a member of the William Clarence Jackson VFW Post #6060, the Hertford Ruritan Club, and the Hertford American Legion. He is survived by **Valna Alexander Jones**, his wife of sixty-two years; daughter, **Jennifer Nixon, PhD (Andrew)**; and grandchildren, **Joshua Nixon** and **Abigail Nixon** of Durham, North Carolina.
- Kelly** 2019 **Hugh David "Dave" Kelly** (91) of Florence, Alabama passed away November 23, 2019. He was born on June 1, 1928 in Scottsboro, Alabama. Dave was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Air Force during the occupation of Japan. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, known today as Auburn University. On September 16, 1951, David married **Betty Nell Johnson**. His distinguished career as a fishery biologist began with the Alabama Department of Conservation and ended as State Biologist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Auburn, Alabama when he retired in 1994. Dave provided technical assistance in the 1980s and early 1990s to fish farmers in the Blackland Prairie resource area of Alabama. During this period, fish farming in Alabama became a multimillion-dollar industry with production of over 20,000 acres of ponds constructed and managed for intensive culture of catfish. Dave was a member of the Madison Church of Christ in Madison, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his daughter, **Leigh Ann**. He is survived by his wife Betty, his son **Mark Kelly (Becky)**, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to CASA of Madison County at <https://casamadisoncty.org/donate/>
- Lile** 2019 Senior Conservationist **Harold Leon Lile** (86) of Durham, North Carolina passed away December 13, 2019 at his home. He was born in Jackson, Tennessee, the youngest of five children, of the late **Harry** and **Mary Lile**. He met his wife **Jeanene Edwards Lile** while attending the University of Tennessee Martin (UT Martin). Harold graduated from UT Martin in 1951 with a degree in Agriculture and completed a master's degree from North Carolina State University in 1966. He played football and basketball while attending UT Martin and was President of the Senior Class. He served two years in the US Army in Japan. Harold worked 35 years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Tennessee and North Carolina, including serving as the North Carolina State Administrative Officer for over 20 years. He was a member of the Church of Christ and very active in many congregations in Tennessee and North Carolina. Most recently, he was a member of the Triangle Church of Christ. Harold was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Jeanene, in 2012. He is survived by his daughters, **Lisa Lile Clay (Neil)** of Durham; **Amy Lile Baradell** (Don) of Greensboro, North Carolina; sons, **Dan Lile (Jodi)** of Summerville, South Carolina, **Drew Lile** of Durham; and nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.
- Marcum** 2019 Senior Conservationist **Robert Harvey Marcum** (96) of Lexington, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at his home on December 6, 2019. He was born in Travelers Rest, Owsley County, Kentucky to **Frank** and **Lennie Mainous Marcum** on September 9, 1923. He served in the US Army in WWII in the Aleutian Islands and with the 71st Infantry Division in the European Theater. He was awarded two bronze medals for serving in 40 days of combat. After his military service, he earned a degree in Agriculture at the University of Kentucky in 1949. He taught agriculture to the veterans-on-farm training program for three years. He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 31 years, retiring as Area Conservationist in 1980. His son Tom Marcum is retired Kentucky State Resource Conservationist. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, **Elva Gabbard Marcum** and granddaughter **Susan Edwards**. He is survived by his children, **Paula Ice**, **Tom (Judy) Marcum**, **Doris (Tom) Hardigree**; grandchildren, **Laura (Mike) Lally**, **Bryan Marcum**, **Wesley (Kimberly) Marcum**, **Tom (Jenny) Hardigree**; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to Park United Methodist Church, in Lexington, Kentucky.
- McKinney** 2019 Lifetime Member **Doris McKinney** (84) of Champaign, Illinois passed away December 12, 2019 at Carle Foundation Hospital with her loving husband, **David McKinney** at her side. Doris was born on May 29, 1935 in Newport News, Virginia to **Henry** and **Margaret Stowers**. She met her husband, David, while he was serving in the US Navy and were married on November 12, 1954 at the First Methodist Church in Norfolk, Virginia. After David was discharged from the Navy, they moved to Champaign, Illinois where David was raised. Doris worked at the USDA-Soil Conservation Service until she retired after 30 years of service. She was a Financial Assistant in the Illinois State Office. Her hobbies included reading, sewing, dancing, listening to country music, watching old movies, and camping in their trailer while traveling around the US. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Morgan Memorial Home on December 17, 2019. Doris was laid to rest at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Champaign County. Memorial donations in memory of Doris may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Research (ADR) program. Doris retired as a Financial Assistant in the USDA-Soil Conservation Service State Office in Champaign. She is survived by her husband, David; daughter, **Deborah Blaker (Michael)**; and her son **David McKinney III**; grandchildren **Joshua**; **Rachel**; **Jeremy**; **Jennie**; and **Brandon**, and 5 great-grandsons.
- Mengers** 2019 **Dale Mengers** (82) of Temple, Texas passed away November 16, 2019 at a local hospital. He was born on October 21, 1937 in Tynan, Texas the son of **Emil** and **Alma Mengers**. Dale worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was a member of Taylor's Valley Baptist Church in Temple. He is survived by his wife **Sue Mengers** of Temple; children **Shelley Carter** of Austin, Texas, **Blane Walker** of Temple, and **Kyle Walker** of Temple; 5 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.
- Moffitt** 2019 **David Claire Moffitt** (76) passed away December 25, 2019, in Fort Worth, Texas. Dave was born on March 7, 1943, in Rocky Ford, Colorado, the third child of **James** and **Bessie Moffitt**. Dave attended Colorado State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1965. He spent forty-three years studying and managing the impact of agricultural waste management on regional water quality for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. His career took him to jobs in Las Cruces, New Mexico; Silver City, New Mexico; Salt Lake City, Utah; Santa Rosa, California; Beaverton, Oregon and Fort Worth, Texas. After retirement, he enjoyed continuing to work for another

ten years through the Texas A & M AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center in Temple, Texas. During his time in Salt Lake City, he had the fortune to meet and marry **Maryke VanderKraan** on December 23, 1972. Besides his wife Maryke, Dave is survived by his three children, **Brian (Natalie) Moffitt** of Burleson, Texas, **Amy (Chuck) Miller** of Hotchkiss, Colorado, and **Cathleen Moffitt** of Delta, Colorado; and six grandchildren. Services are scheduled at Crossroads Christian Church (6450 South State Highway 360) in Grand Prairie, Texas at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 30th.

- Moody** 2019 **Helen Louise (Fox) Moody** was born on June 25, 1946 in Washington, D.C. She earned two Bachelor of Science degrees (one in Physical Geography and the other in Astro Physics) from the University of Michigan. After that she earned a Doctorate in fluvial geomorphology at John's Hopkins University. She went to work for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1975 as a hydrologist in College Park, Maryland. She worked for the agency in several locations until she retired in 2016. Most recently she was hired as an Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program employee, so her work continued with NRCS until very shortly before she passed away. She married **Edwin Moody** on January 24, 1978. She raised Zebra Finches, having as many as 500 of them in an aviary in the back yard. Her father was a falconer, and he passed the love of birds on to her. He even had her raise and train a kestrel. She also loved butterflies. Everything in their yard had to attract butterflies and birds. And she loved dogs, too. Many of her dogs were therapy dogs that visited rest homes, schools, and hospitals. She is survived by her husband Edwin and son, **Seamus A. Moody (Megan)**.
- Nethery** 2019 **Ruth Nadine Nethery** (82) of Smithfield, Utah passed away November 29, 2019 at Maple Springs Rehab Center, North Logan, Utah. Nadine was born July 15, 1937 in Garland, Utah to **Horace Stephen Rose** and **Ruth Alice Sederholm Rose**. She was the wife of ARCSE Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Michael Nethery**. She and Mike were married on August 11, 1956 in Corvallis, Oregon. She was raised and educated in Garland and attended Bear River High School. Because her father was in the military, she moved with the family and attended high school in Vancouver, Washington and finally in Corvallis, Oregon where she graduated. While attending Oregon State University she met her future husband Mike. She and Mike lived in several locations including Utah (twice), Oregon, Washington, Arkansas, Germany, Indiana, Virginia, North Dakota, and Iowa (twice) following Mike with his military service, graduate study, and employment with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. At each of these locations, she made many life-long friends. She was a life-long, faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, serving in many capacities in branches, wards, districts, and stakes. She served in primary, young women, and relief society organizations and worked in family history and genealogy for many years. After Mike's retirement as State Conservationist in Iowa, they moved to Centerville, Utah. After 8 years, they then moved to Smithfield where they have resided for the past 21 years. She and Mike have enjoyed traveling throughout the US, plus taking 5 cruises and several other tours worldwide. Nadine is survived by her husband Mike; three sisters, **Margaret Griffin (Douglas)**, **Carolyn Dillon (Richard)**, and **Lorraine Kirkham (Sheldon)**; and three daughters, and one son, **Elizabeth Alldridge**, **Ruth Ann Garner (Philip)**, **Ginger Nethery**, and **Carl Nethery (Zoi)**. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.
- Packard** 2019 **Bonnie Eileen Packard** (88) of Salina, Kansas passed away December 9, 2019. She was born January 27, 1931 in Beverly, Kansas, the daughter of **George** and **Zola Anderson**. She retired in 1993 as a Procurement Clerk in the Kansas State Office in Salina for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. She was devoted to her family and church. She was married to her beloved of 67 years, **James E. Packard** who so adored her. They met at a bus stop and fell in love, beginning a wonderful life together. In addition to her husband James, she is survived by two sons, **Steve Packard (Suzie)** of Salina, and **Randy Packard (Lydia)** of Holyrood, Kansas; 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.
- Parker** 2019 **William Blake Parker** (88) of Wedowee, Alabama passed away August 21, 2019 at his home. He was an Auburn University graduate. Blake began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Alabama as a soil scientist, transferred around 1966 to Mississippi as Assistant State Soil Scientist and later moved to Florida to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to concentrate on hydric soil technology. He rapidly became recognized nationally as an expert on hydric soils and wetlands, and during this part of his career with the USFWS, he assisted the Soil Conservation Service National Soils Staff in identifying hydric soil attributes. Survivors include his wife, **Mary Herren**; one daughter, **Anita Kay (Bob) Lees** of Stuart, Florida; one son, **William E. (Alyson) Parker** of Alexandria, Virginia; and three grandchildren.
- Penner** 2019 **Harold Lee Penner** (94) of El Dorado, Kansas passed away October 31st, 2019. Harold was born on November 27, 1924 in Hillsboro, Kansas; the son of **Jacob** and **Florentine (Janke) Penner**. He attended Tabor College and Kansas State University, graduating in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and soils. Harold enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943. He worked in the Naval Hospital Orthopedics and Allergy Clinics as a Pharmacist Mate. He faithfully served our country until 1946. On August 31, 1948, he was united in marriage to **Doris Louise Dody**, in Marion, Kansas. Doris preceded him in death in 2016. Doris and Harold moved to Great Falls, Montana, where he began his first job with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. In 1955, the family moved to El Dorado, from where he worked as a soil scientist on the Technical Staff in the Hutchinson Area Office and was headquartered at Wichita, Kansas. He retired in 1980 with 30 years of service. Survivors include his daughters, **Joan Bixler** of Topeka, Kansas and **Jan Umhay** of Mesa, Arizona; 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.
- Pennington** 2019 **Dorothy Lee Green Pennington** (83) of Corbin, Kentucky passed away November 13, 2019 at the Bluegrass Hospice in Lexington, Kentucky. Dorothy was born on September 23, 1936 in Buffalo, New York to **Flossie Belle McKeehan** and **William McKinley Green** of Corbin. Dorothy worked for the United States Federal Government in various agencies including the Social Security Administration and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service where she was a Resource Conservation and Development clerk. She was a member of the Corbin Ossoli Club, Beta Sigma Pi, and the Friday Afternoon Book Club where she enjoyed her many friends and supporting the community she loved so much. Dorothy was an avid Kentucky Wildcats fan and top fan of Tiger Woods and Tom Brady. She loved people and found much joy in her many friends. Dorothy attended First Baptist Church in Williamsburg in her last few years where she found much joy. She is now joyfully reunited with her loving husband **Gearl Pennington**. She is survived by her son **Brandon Gearl Pennington**, daughter **Deedra Lee Pennington**, 5 Grandchildren; and 6 Great Grandchildren. Donations in her name can be made to the Corbin Ossoli Club and Corbin Backpack Program.

- Pettit** 2019 **Dean Loris Pettit** (89) of Fairfield, Iowa passed away October 25, 2019. Dean was born on December 11, 1929 in Mt. Sterling, Iowa to **Craig** and **Dorothy Pettit**. He served in the US Army during the Korean War and then the US Air Force Reserves. Dean worked as a soil conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 40 years. He surveyed for Pathfinders RC&D and French-Reneker-Associates after retiring from the government. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Fairfield, and the Lions Club, being voted Lion of the Year in 1974-75. He took up running in 1980, and within a year completed a 50-mile ultra-marathon. He enjoyed spending time outside, gardening, tending trees, and taking walks. He is survived by his beloved and devoted wife of 64 years, **Bernita Pettit**; his children **Marcia (John) Seddon** of Cincinnati, Iowa; **Glen (Patti Laughlin) Pettit** of McPherson, Kansas; **Gordon (Becca Roehrich) Pettit** of Macomb, Illinois; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
- Senchal** 2019 Lifetime member **Myron Senchal** (75) of Bismarck, North Dakota passed away at the Benedictine Living Center in Garrison, North Dakota on October 28, 2019. Myron was born on January 21, 1944, to **Phillip** and **Evelyn (Cote) Senchal** in Bottineau, North Dakota. Myron attended the School of Forestry currently Dakota College at Bottineau and North Dakota State University at Fargo, ND, graduating with a degree in agriculture. Upon graduating in 1966, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. After returning home, he began his long career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Myron's career started in Valley City, where he met his wife **Cheryl Nelson**. Myron's career moved the family to Finley, Forman, and Mandan (all in North Dakota), Casper, Wyoming, and finally to Bismarck in 1984 where they remained and raised their family. He held leadership positions in many organizations including the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Myron gave with a true servant's heart to his family, church, and community in so many ways throughout his life. In retirement, Myron enjoyed discovering French genealogy, volunteering, gardening, carving, and giving away diamond willow walking sticks, and all things family. Mass of Christian burial was held November 4 at Church of St. Anne in Bismarck with Father Wayne Sattler officiating. Burial was held at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery, Mandan. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Cheryl; daughter, **Jodi (Tom) Scheeler**, Minot, North Dakota; sons, **Matt (Lori) Senchal**, and **Mike (Rui) Senchal**, Bismarck; grandchildren, **Annie** and **Emma Scheeler**, **Caleb** and **Cohen Senchal**, and **Max** and **Spencer Senchal**.
- Swanson** 2019 **Deane W. Swanson** (92) of Yates Center, Kansas passed away November 27, 2019 at Yates Center Health and Rehab. He missed his high school graduation ceremony because he joined the U.S. Navy at age 17. He served until the end of World War II serving on the USS Medusa stationed in the Philippines. Following his service in the Navy he attended Kansas State University earning a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. He was a soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service headquartered at Yates Center. He mapped soils throughout southeast Kansas. His wife, Dorothy, preceded him in death in 2011. He is survived by his children, **Richard Swanson (Cathy)** of Olathe, Kansas, **Susan Roberts** of Bel Aire, Kansas, and **Sandra Heffern (Mike)** of Yates Center; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
- Sweeney** 2019 **Paul John Sweeney** (65) of Saint Paul, Minnesota passed away after a battle with cancer in St. Paul on November 1, 2019. A graduate of University of Nebraska-Lincoln he retired from USDA-Natural resources Conservation Service and went on to work as a water quality consultant with Ecosystem Services Exchange. While with NRCS he served as a Water Quality Project Manager, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and State Conservationist. He was a passionate conservationist. Outside of his work, he was also a passionate outdoorsman enjoying fishing, golf, hunting, travel, photography and above all spending time with his family. As an ardent Husker fan, the Sweeney world always paused for football games. Paul is survived by his wife, **Jennifer**; his children, daughter, **Christina Lewis (Shane)**; son, **Phillip Sweeney**; stepdaughter, **Abigail Grethen (Justin)** and 5 grandchildren. Paul asked that donations be made in his memory to St Jude's Children's Hospital.
- Wingo** 2019 **Bobby Glenn "Bob" Wingo** formerly of Hennepin, Oklahoma passed away December 5, 2019 in Norman, Oklahoma. Bob was born October 22, 1932 in Hennepin to the late **Broadus L.** and **Lillian E. (Jones) Wingo**. Bob served in the United States Army during the Korean War, earning a Combat Infantry Badge. Following an Honorable Discharge on October 16, 1954, Bob returned home and began a career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a land surveyor. Following retirement from the US Government in the mid-1980s, Bob owned and operated the Wingo Grocery Store in Hennepin for many years. He was active with numerous community organizations and the First Baptist Church of Hennepin. Bob was preceded in death by wife **Peggy Wingo** in 1995. Bob and the former **Paula Joan Lee** were married on September 30, 2014 in Hennepin. Survivors include his loving wife, Paula; six children, **Scott Wingo (Pam)** of Elmore City, Oklahoma, **Liz Wilburn (Steve)** of Ada, Oklahoma, **Michael Wingo** of Ada, **Julie Auld** of Konawa, Oklahoma, **Shannon Stevenson (Marc)** of Grand Prairie, Texas and daughter, **Sheree' Serrano (Frank)** of Edmond, Oklahoma; five children gained from his marriage, **Colleen Guthery** of New Mexico, **Susie McCoy** of Lindsay, Oklahoma, **Linda Blaine** of Oklahoma City, **Stephen Blaine** of Norman and **James Williams** of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH/APRIL 2020
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2020



Reflections of the Grand Tetons, WY.